



PAGE CREEK MARSH

Property Owner: The Nature Conservancy
 Recognitions & Designations: WI State Natural Area, WI
 Wildlife Action Plan Reference Site, The Nature Conservancy
 Priority Conservation Area

Funding for this project provided by The McKnight Foundation, which seeks to improve the quality of life for present and future generations through grantmaking, coalition-building and encouragement of strategic policy reform.



**Wisconsin
Wetlands**
ASSOCIATION

wisconsinwetlands.org



Thomas Meyer, Bill Pielsticker



PAGE CREEK MARSH WETLAND TYPES

Marsh, sedge meadow, low prairie, fen, shrub carr

ECOLOGY & SIGNIFICANCE

This Wetland Gem features more than 600 acres of open wetland communities along the headwaters of clear water Page Creek, a tributary to the Fox River in Marquette County. This relatively undisturbed wetland complex includes not just marsh, but also sedge meadow, low prairie and fen habitats. Page Creek Marsh supports a rich diversity of plants, including several rare species. Animal life is also rich; these wetlands are particularly important habitat as stopover habitat for sandhill cranes and other migratory birds.

FLORA & FAUNA

Lush marsh, the dominant wetland community at this site, features cattail and a variety of emergent and floating-leaved aquatic plants like bladderwort, duckweed, arrowhead and wild rice. Broad sedge meadows include an assortment of sedges and bluejoint grass as well as some more northern species like wiregrass, cottongrass, bog bean and northern bog aster. Shrub carr areas are characterized by willow and dogwood. Other plant species common at the site include marsh marigold, lake sedge, turtlehead, water dock and sensitive fern. This site also supports several rare plant species, including downy willowherb and bog reedgrass.



Marsh marigold — Gary Shackelford

Wetland habitats at Page Creek Marsh support an abundance and diversity of waterfowl and other migratory birds. The site is of particular value as a staging area for sandhill cranes during fall migration. Other birds include wood duck, willow flycatcher and green heron. Mammals include beaver, coyote, red fox and woodchuck. This site provides important habitat for several rare animals, including slender glass lizard.

THREATS

Agriculture and other land uses in the Page Creek watershed may affect the health of the creek and associated wetlands. Impacts from recreational use and invasive species are also of concern.

ACCESS

Old roads and primitive trails provide access for hikers at this site. Visit the Wisconsin State Natural Areas Program website: dnr.wi.gov/org/land/er/sna.



Green heron — Gary Shackelford

Sources:

Wisconsin State Natural Areas Program (WDNR)
 Wisconsin's Strategy for Wildlife Species of Greatest Conservation Need (WDNR)
 The Prairie-Forest Border: An Ecoregional Plan (TNC)